

To Whom it may concern,

I am emailing you regarding the police accountability bill. As a citizen of this state, I do support this bill being passed, and I strongly urge you as a representative of this state, that you consider allowing this bill to pass as it is currently written. If approved, it will improve the quality of life in our state as we know it. I am not satisfied with the way local police officers protect all our communities. Make no mistake about it, the people opposed to this bill have stated most officers will either retire, quit, or move to another state. If a police reform bill drives officers to leave their department or the state, they obviously are not fit to wear the badge. The opposition to this bill thinks it shows police that the general public does not respect them, and to be honest, police need to be earning the respect of citizens and not the other way around.

This bill is giving more power to civilians to ensure police officers are working for the good of all our communities. Stripping police of qualified immunity will force these men and women to be held accountable when they act without hesitation on any call in any situation that results in the injury of innocent citizens. Perhaps this will force officers to rely more on de-escalation than violence.

Another excellent aspect of this bill is to have justice impacted persons on a review board. Police officers have been ineffectively judged by a reasonableness standard and should instead be judged by a civilian review board. For decades, police officers have not been held accountable for failing to protect and serve as they claim to do.

Those who oppose this bill are not people that are faced with the constant failings of the systemic racism that permeates every aspect of our society. They seem to think that the lives of police officers are more important than the lives of innocent people that have been murdered by police. Officers made a choice to put that uniform on daily to aid our communities and provide a safe environment. However, they have not held up their end of the bargain. I strongly believe this bill needs to be passed to ensure the safety of all our citizens, regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, and gender/sexual identity.

Please consider all our children's future and vote yes to this important bill.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Marisa Rizzo

Newtown, CT